(b) A complaint was received regarding certain irregularities in cooperative sugar factories in Western Maharashtra and also regarding release of 15000 bags of levy sugar to Madhya Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation without proper release order. Both these cases have been referred to Government of Maharashtra for sending a report, which is still awaited.

Action has been initiated to strengthen and Streamline the working of cooperatives by initiating a Business Development Planning Programme for primary cooperative societies, which seeks to enhance member participation and restore the viability of these societies. A draft Model Cooperative Law has also been prepared which aims to restore the autonomy and democratic functioning of cooperatives and to ensure timely elections.

Decline in cotton production

@816. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in cotton production this year;

(b) if so, the number of bales of cotton produced in the country during the current year and the comparative figures for the previous three years;

(c) what are the reasons for such sharp fall in cotton production; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that cotton and cotton yarn are available to handloom and powerloom weavers in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices?

@Previously Unstarred Question 245, transferred from 25th November, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The estimated production of cotton in the country for the previous three years is as follows:

Year	Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each
1988-89	87.44
1989-90 (revised)	114.22
1990-91 (final)	97.59

The final estimates of production of cotton for the current year i.e. 1991-92 have not yet become due from the States. However, as per the current assessment, the production of cotton during 1991-92 is expected to be higher than that of the year 1990-91.

(c) The fall in production of cotton during 1990-91 as compared to previous year was on account of pest (heliothis) attack at the flowering stage of the crop in the major growing districts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

(d) Cotton is not used directly by Handloom and Powerloom weavers. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by persuading the spinning mills in the Cooperative, Private and State sectors to supply Hank yarn to Handloom weavers at prebudget prices.

Production and consumption of cereals and pulses

817. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of ARICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the per capita production and consumption of Cereals and pulses during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) what is the stock position of food grains at present, whether it is sufficient to meet the requirement of the consumers in the country; and